



# EXTINCTION PREVENTION ACT

HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE CHAIR RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

May 2021

Chair Raúl M. Grijalva's (D-Ariz.) Extinction Prevention Act of 2021 provides much-needed funding for some of the most imperiled wildlife species in the United States, including threatened and endangered North American butterflies (Title I), Pacific Island plants (Title II), freshwater mussels (Title III), and Southwest desert fish (Title IV). Habitat protection for these less charismatic species is chronically underfunded, despite them being among the species most at risk of extinction.

- *North American butterflies are one of the fastest declining groups of all endangered species. Of the 39 listed species of butterflies, not a single one is known to be improving.*
- *There are nearly 400 endangered and threatened plant species in Hawaii and the Pacific Islands, representing about 22 percent of all listed species. In Hawaii, more than 200 plant species have fewer than 50 wild individuals remaining.*
- *Freshwater mussels are the most imperiled animal group in the country. Seventy percent of U.S. species are at risk of extinction; 38 species have already been lost.*
- *Southwest desert fish are all in decline due to droughts and water scarcity. Many have experienced significant population and habitat reductions, and 42 species are listed as endangered or threatened.*

## THE EXTINCTION PREVENT ACT OF 2021 WOULD:

- Support and provide financial resources for on-the-ground projects to conserve species and their ecosystems and address threats to their survival.
- Authorize \$5 million annually for each species group for conservation projects related to restoration, protection and management of ecosystems, research and monitoring of populations, development and implementation of management plans, enforcement and implementation of applicable conservation laws, and community outreach and education. Eligible applicants for funding include relevant state, territory, tribal government, or any other entity with the expertise required for the conservation of the particular species group.